cities of Karnataka with neighbouring States. The projects are Bangalore-Satyamangalam and Munirabad-Mehboobnagar.

(b) and (c) The works on these projects are being progressed as per availability of resources. No target date has yet been fixed for these projects.

USA grants to Indian Railways

279. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has agreed to grant four lakh dollars to the Indian Railways for further development of its Geographic Information System-based strategic investment planning techniques;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard was signed by Government with the United States;

(c) if so, the main feature of this agreement;

(d) to what extent it would help the Railways; and

(e) by when these grants are likely to be utilised by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main feature of this agreement is that United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) will partly fund as a grant, the further development of the Geographical Information System (GIS) based strategic investment planning techniques as a part of the existing Long Range Decision Support System (LRDSS) of the Indian Railways.

(d) Out of the total project cost of US $ 1.03 million dollars, United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) is providing US $ 400,000 as a grant. The remaining portion of the project cost will be funded by the Ministry of Railways.

(e) The project is likely to be completed in a period of eighteen months

and the grant is likely to be utilised fully during this period. The work has already commenced from January, 2002.

Computerised rail reservation counters in Rajasthan

280. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number and details of railway stations in Rajasthan where computerised reservation counters are likely to be set up by the end of the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): As on January 31, computerised reservation facilities have been provided at 29 locations in Rajasthan. These facilities are likely to be provided at Sirohi Road, Rani, Marwar and Dholpur by March 31, 2002. Proposal for the computerised reservation facilities at Suratgarh, Sardarshahar, Merta Road, Marwar Bhinmal, Nokha, Sujangarh, Makrana, Nagaur, Jawai Bandh and Beawar has been included in the Annual Railway Budget 2002-03.

Freight targets of the Railways

281. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have achieved the target of freight tonnage in the first three quarters (April to December) of the 2001-2002 financial year;

(b) if so, what was the target for the same and what was the achievement; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall, if any, and the steps taken to achieve the target in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Total revenue earning originating freight traffic for period April, 2001—December, 2001 was 357.26 million tonnes against the proportionate target of 367.75 million tonnes.